MEMORIAL POSSIBILITIES IN WATER WORKS PLANTS

The action of the authorities of Newark, N. J., in placing a memorial doorway in the meter tower described in the March JOURNAL is something to be taken to heart. The rewards of the man who gives his time to the service of an American city are meager. He is fairly certain to be called incompetent by many persons who know nothing about his responsibilities and difficulties. He will be called a crook and a grafter if he tries to eliminate incompetent low bidders for materials and construction. If he refuses to be stampeded into some poorly planned project temporarily enjoying public favor he is damned as a reactionary. He will lose some valued acquaintances who do not think as he does and will have to associate publicly with some men to whom he would hesitate to intrust a counterfeit dime. In return he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has helped make his city better as a result of his term of office and that years later, when the value of his work is truly seen through the perspective of years, a few men will then be sorry they did not thank him for it while he was alive.

There are many men whose services for the better water supply of their cities deserve permanent public commemoration. Joseph P. Davis, Frederick P. Stearns, General George S. Green, General William Ludlow, Alphonse Fteley, Charles Hermany, William A. Worthen, Alfred W. Craven, and Frederic Graff are names which ought to be prominently displayed on some of the structures which owe their existence to these men. There have been many superintendents who have served their cities long and well who should have such services recognized in an enduring manner. There have been trustees or commissioners whose work in managing the business affairs of water departments was of the highest value, and yet today they are forgotten, although what they did was gratuitous public service and often thankless service, at that. In one city it may be a superintendent, in another an engineer and in another a trustee or commissioner, but in practically every city there has been a man to whom the water works of today stands a monument.

It is perhaps not wise to attach the name of a man still in active work to such a conspicuous feature as a pumping station, reservoir or water tower. But the name of a man who has done his work and is either retired or gone hence forever can be appropriately used with some part of the works which it was his pride to be associated

with. It is a recognition of good work well done that is due to him, an inspiration to his successors and an incentive to those who are just entering upon public service. We will never see the time when public office will bring the income that private business affords, but we can strive with some hope of success to secure for those who discharge public duties ably and constructively a permanent recognition of what they do. The character of the works used in water supply particularly adapts them for receiving memorial tablets commemorating the services of these able men.

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THE RELATION OF COLLOIDS TO WATER PURIFICATION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The colloidal state of matter is a subject that has received considerable attention from scientists during the last decade, but the application of the laws established by research to practical problems has been far too limited. The extremely broad field to which the study of this subject is applicable may be perhaps some excuse for the slow advance, but it is probably also due to the lack of contact, and possibly interest, which the research worker usually has in applied science. To those who are so fortunate as to have a good working knowledge of the fundamentals of colloidal phenomena and physical chemistry in general, and who also are confronted with practical problems in which this knowledge may be utilized, the opportunities for contributing to the advancement of the arts are unparalleled. In agriculture, medicine, sanitation and hundreds of industries, many of the unsolved problems are those relating to matter in the colloidal state.

In the field of water purification and of sewage disposal, there is a great need for an intelligent application of the principles involved in colloidal chemistry. We know far too little why some turbid waters are more easily coagulated than others. We know comparatively little of the inhibitory effects which various substances and chemicals may have in preventing effective coagulation of suspensoids. We have only a limited and decidedly empirical knowledge of the influence of temperature upon coagulation of natural waters.

In water softening we are confronted with several problems in which colloidal and physical chemistry must eventually provide the practical solution. For example, how may the precipitation of